

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03939 221656Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10

TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 AF-10 MC-02 EB-11

OMB-01 RSR-01 /152 W

----- 022913

R 221445Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1250

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 3939

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: MCAP, PO, NATO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE FORCES FOR NATO

REF: USNATO 3619

1. SUMMARY. PORTUGAL REITERATES IN REPLY TO DPQ(73) THAT NATIONAL POLICY IS TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO DEFENSE OF STATES OF "ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND OVERSEAS PROVINCE OF GUINEA". THIS POLICY INEVITABLY LIMITS PORTUGUESE DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. MEMORANDUM HOWEVER INDICATES, WITHIN LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY SITUATION IN "OVERSEA TERRITORIES", PORTUGAL IS TRYING TO IMPROVE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. FORCE IMPROVEMENTS ARE LINKED TO AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. THUS IN REALITY NO IMPROVEMENTS TO FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO CAN BE EXPECTED UNTIL COLONIAL PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED AND EXTERNAL AID IS RESTORED. USNATO PROPOSES NO MAJOR INTERVENTION DURING MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF PORTUGUESE FORCE PLANS. END SUMMARY.

SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 03939 221656Z

2. FORCES. A. ARMY. 1973 ARMY COMMITMENT IS BEING MET. COMMITMENT FOR 1974 CONTINUES TO BE ONE SECOND ECHELON (MC 55/2 OPERATIONAL READINESS STATUS C4) INFANTRY DIVISION AND ITS SUPPORT UNITS. MEMORANDUM INDICATES THAT FOLLOWING

CONTACTS WITH SACEUR, PORTUGAL IS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF MODIFYING INFANTRY DIVISION TO AN INFANTRY BRIGADE; BRIGADE WOULD SERVE AS A REGIONAL RESERVE FORCE FOR CINCSOUTH. HENCE NATO FORCE GOAL TO PROVIDE A MECHANIZED M-DAY BRIGADE HAS BEEN DROPPED. MEMORANDUM ADDS BILATERAL CONTACTS ARE GOING TO BE MADE WITH NATO COUNTRIES FOR PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MODERN EQUIPMENT. MODIFICATION OF INFANTRY DIVISION MAY TAKE UP TO FOUR YEARS.

(1) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. AS IN PAST, SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT TABLES (SDT) INDICATE EQUIPMENT STATUS OF NATO COMMITTED UNITS HAS NOT BEEN IMPROVED. NO EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS ARE PROJECTED. PORTUGUESE PRESUME ALL EQUIPMENT LISTED IN SDT WILL BE OBSOLETE BY 1978. NATIONAL POLICY TO HAVE 60 DAYS OF COMBAT AMMUNITION. HOWEVER, ALL FOUR ITEMS REPORTED ARE BELOW 30 DAYS AND FOR ONE ITEM, 81MM MORTAR AMMO, THERE IS NO AMMO.

(2) PERSONNEL. TOTAL ACTIVE ARMY STRENGTH, WHICH INCLUDES FORCES ASSIGNED TO OVERSEA TERRITORIES, INCREASES FROM 211,800 IN 1972 TO 227,300 IN 1973; ARMY STRENGTH PROJECTED TO INCREASE GRADUALLY, REACHING 240,800 IN 1977. SEVEN PERCENT OF ACTIVE PERSONNEL IN 1972 ARE REGULARS. VERY SMALL NUMBER OF ARMY PERSONNEL ARE IN NATO COMMITTED UNITS. ROUGHLY 322 THOUSAND, CLIMBING TO 360 THOUSAND BY 1977 ARE CARRIED ON RESERVE ROLLS; OF THESE 53 THOUSAND ARE TO BE RECALLED DURING FIRST 15 DAYS OF MOBILIZATION. NO RESERVISTS WERE CALLED UP FOR REFRESHER TRAINING IN 1972.

B. NAVY. 1973 NAVAL SHIP COMMITMENT IS BEING MET. 1974 COMMITMENT CONSISTS OF 2 CAT A1, ONE CAT B4, AND ONE CAT C5 OCEAN ESCORTS (DE). MEMORANDUM INDICATES INCLUSION OF DE UNDER CAT B IS A CONSEQUENCE OF PERSONNEL SHORTAGES AND LACK OF MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. TWO CAT A1 DE'S AND ONE CAT A1 AND ONE CAT B4 SUBMARINES CONTINUE TO BE PLACED AT SACLANT'S DISPOSAL AS "OTHER FORCES" ON UNDERSTANDING THESE SHIPS WILL NOT LEAVE NATIONAL AREAS TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 03939 221656Z

ALLOCATED. THREE COASTAL ESCORTS AND NINE OCEAN MINESWEEPERS (MSC) UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND ARE ALSO CARRIED ON FORCE TABLES. NATO FORCE GOAL TO EARMARK EXISTING ESCORTS AND SUBMARINES TO SACLANT HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

(1) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. IN 1975 ONE OF THE NATO COMMITTED DE'S WILL BE REPLACED BY A "COMMANDANTE JOAO BELO" CLASS DE. NO OTHER MAJOR SHIP PROCUREMENT IS PLANNED OVER 1973 TO 1978 PERIOD. MEMORANDUM UNDERLINES THAT EXISTING LIMITATIONS IN MODERN NAVAL ELECTRONIC AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED THROUGH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. LIMITED IMPROVEMENTS IN TRANSMITTERS, TRANSCEIVERS, RECEIVERS, ANTENNAS, AND INFRARED EQUIPMENT ARE REPORTED IN TABLES ON

AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT. BY END-1973, WRM OBJECTIVE OF 90 DAYS IS REACHED FOR ALL REPORTED ITEMS EXCEPT FOR MK44 AND L3 TORPEDOES; THIS CORRESPONDS CLOSELY WITH SITUATION FOR END-1973 PROJECTED IN REPLY TO DPQ(72). BY 1978 ALL ITEMS (EXCEPT TORPEDOES) ARE PROJECTED TO REMAIN AT 90 DAY LEVEL. ONLY INCREASES IN AMMO REPORTED BETWEEN 1974 AND 1978 ARE FOR SMALL CALIBER AMMO. AT END-1973 80 PERCENT OF SPARE PARTS ARE REPORTED ON HAND.

(2) PERSONNEL. NINETEEN THOUSAND ACTIVE DUTY NAVAL PERSONNEL ARE REPORTED FOR END-1972; LEVEL INCREASES SLIGHTLY TO 19,500 BY END-1973 WHERE IT REMAINS FOR REST OF PLANNING PERIOD. SIXTY-TWO PCT OF ACTIVE PERSONNEL ARE REGULAR. CLOSE TO 2,500 OF THE ACTIVE FORCE SERVED ON SHIPS IN 1972; THIS DROPS BELOW 2,000 IN THE 1973 TO 1978 PERIOD. BOTH CAT A AND CAT B SHIPS ARE MANNED AT 45 PCT OF WAS. CLOSE TO 12 THOUSAND RESERVISTS ARE CARRIED ON ROLLS; 2,500 OF THE RESERVISTS ARE TO BE RECALLED DURING FIRST 15 DAYS OF MOBILIZATION. NO RESERVISTS WERE RECALLED FOR REFRESHER TRAINING IN 1972 AND NO PLANS FOR ANNUAL TRAINING REPORTED OVER 1973 TO 1978 PERIOD.

C. AIR FORCE. 1973 COMMITMENT OF ONE SQUADRON OF MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT (MPA) (OPERATED BY THE AIR FORCE) IS BEING MET. COMMITMENT WAS FOR ONE SQUADRON OF FIVE AIRCRAFT; REPLY TO DPQ(73) REPORTS SQUADRON HAS SEVEN AIRCRAFT IN 1973. 1974 COMMITMENT IS FOR ONE SQUADRON OF SEVEN MPA (5P2V AIRCRAFT, PLUS 2 AS YET UNIDENTIFIED MODERN MPA).
SECRET

PAGE 04 NATO 03939 221656Z

MEMORANDUM INDICATES PORTUGUESE HOPE TO ACQUIRE THROUGH EXTERNAL AID A TOTAL OF 8 MPA BY 1978. ACQUISITION OF 8 MODERN MPA WOULD GO LONG WAY TOWARDS MEETING NATO FORCE GOAL OF REPLACING 12 P2V MPA. UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND PORTUGAL REPORTS FOR 1974 FIFTEEN F-86 INTERCEPTOR DAY FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND ONE TRANSPORTS, INCLUDING THREE B707'S. PORTUGAL HOPES, THROUGH FOREIGN AID, TO REPLACE F-86'S BY 1975 WITH MODERN TYPE AIRCRAFT.

(1) EQUIPMENT AND LOGISTICS. REPLACEMENT OF P2V MPA AND F-86 AIRCRAFT IS (AS MENTIONED ABOVE) ENVISAGED THROUGH FOREIGN AID. IN REGARD TO SURVIVABILITY, MEMORANDUM STATES THERE ARE NO CURRENT PLANS FOR THE DEFENSE OF AIRFIELDS AGAINST LOW ALTITUDE ATTACKS. NATIONAL GOAL IS 90 DAYS OF WRMV; OF FOUR ITEMS REPORTED, ONLY .50 CALIBER AMMO IS ABOVE 90-DAY LEVEL IN 1973 AND 1974. NO INFORMATION ON COMBAT STOCKS IS PROVIDED BEYOND 1974.

(2) PERSONNEL. ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL STRENGTH INCREASES GRADUALLY FROM 21,639 IN 1972 TO 23,000 BY 1978 ROUGHLY 22 PCT OF ACTIVE PERSONNEL ARE REGULARS. MEMORANDUM HIGHLIGHTS A SHORTAGE OF TECHNICAL AND NAVIGATION EXPERTS.

PERSONNEL TRAINING, INCLUDING PILOT TRAINING, IS HAMPERED BY LACK OF FUNDS. NUMBER OF RESERVISTS ON ROLLS INCREASES FROM 7,584 IN 1972 TO 8,700 BY 1978 NO PLANS FOR ANNUAL RESERVIST TRAINING ARE REPORTED. ANNUAL FLYING HOURS PER MPA AIRCREW IS REPORTED AT 210 HOURS IN 1972 AND 250 HOURS IN 1973.

3. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. A. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC PORTION OF PORTUGUESE REPLY TO DPQ(73) HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED AT NATO.

B. NATIONAL POLICY TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO DEFENSE OF "OVERSEAS TERRITORIES" AND GENERAL TONE OF MEMORANDUM STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT MAJOR PORTION OF PORTUGUESE DEFENSE BUDGET WILL GO TOWARD DEFENSE OF "OVERSEAS TERRITORIES" AND THAT PCT OF GNP FOR DEFENSE WILL CONTINUE TO BE HIGHEST IN NATO.

C. MEMORANDUM AGAIN STATES BEGIN QUOTE: THERE IS NO EXTERNAL AID TO PORTUGAL END QUOTE.

SECRET

PAGE 05 NATO 03939 221656Z

4. PROPOSED USNATO POSITION FOR MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION.

A. AS IN PAST, USNATO PROPOSES NO MAJOR INTERVENTION DURING NATO'S MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION OF PORTUGUESE FORCE PLANS BECAUSE UNTIL SITUATION IMPROVES IN OVERSEAS COLONIES OR THERE IS A SHIFT IN NATIONAL PRIORITIES, THERE IS LITTLE HOPE THAT PORTUGAL WILL IMPROVE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO NATO.

B. IF APPROPRIATE, WE PLAN TO QUERY PORTUGUESE ON POSSIBILITY OF MAKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR MAJOR EQUIPMENT BY REDUCING TOTAL MANPOWER BASE. RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO03939
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12/31/81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730868/abqcebrl.tel
Line Count: 199
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 3619 1. SUMMARY. PORTUGAL REITERATES IN REPLY TO DPQ(73) THAT NATIONAL POLICY IS TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO DEFENSE OF STATES OF "ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND OVERSEAS PROVINCE OF GUINEA". THIS POLICY INEVITABLY LIMITS PORTUGUESE DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO. MEMORANDUM
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE FORCES FOR NATO
TAGS: MCAP, PO, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO LISBON
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005